Manuela Wagner (German Studies and Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies, University of Connecticut) and Sandra Sirota (Human Rights & Experiential Global Learning, University of Connecticut)

Narratives of Injustice and a Quilt of Hope: Teaching for Human Rights and Intercultural Citizenship

Abstract

How can the exploration of trauma and suffering associated with experiences of injustice in higher education become a site of hope with transformative potential?

In fall 2021, Sandra Sirota and Manuela Wagner integrated a transnational online project into their course, Teaching for Intercultural Citizenship and Human Rights, in partnership with colleagues from Argentina and Germany. Students collaborated with their peers from each country on the project, Narratives of Injustice and a Quilt of Hope. In this presentation, Manuela and Sandra will discuss how the students shared individual experiences of injustice and then, through an iterative process of reflection, research, individual work, and group work, co-created a digital quilt of hope. We will demonstrate how the project fits within the larger framework of the course, translating theories in intercultural citizenship and human rights education into practice. Finally, we will share how the project offers an opportunity to analyze and reflect on injustice in one’s own life and cultivate collective hope as a crucial initial and ongoing step in advocating for social change.